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Message Text

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70
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAB-01 AID-05 /069 W
---------- 018888
R 182145Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5781
INFO AMCONSUL CALI
AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR OAS CO CU
SUBJ: REACTION TO QUITO CONFERENCE BECOMES MORE MODERATE

REF: BOGOTA 10142

1. THE BOGOTA PRESS, SUBSEQUENT TO THE MORE MODERATE STATEMENTS OF FONMIN LIEVANO (REFTEL), HAS, IN MUCH OF ITS EDITORIAL COVERAGE, EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY OF SAVING THE INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM.

2. EL TIEMPO IN A NOV 17 EDITORIAL STATES THAT THE OAS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO FALL APART, BUT RATHER SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED. THE EDITORIAL CAUTIONS AGAINST HASTY, EMOTIONAL OVERREACTION AND CITES THE OAS AS THE LINK THAT HOLDS THE HEMISPHERE TOGETHER.

3. FORMER FONMIN ALFREDO VAZQUEZ CARRIZOSA, WRITING IN THE NOV 17 ISSUE OF EL ESPECTADOR, STATES THAT THE QUITO MEETING REPRESENTED A CRISIS IN HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS. HE CRITICIZED THE US POSITION AT QUITO AS INCONSISTENT WITH US POLICIES OF DETENTE AND STATED THAT THE OAS WAS OVERLY DEPENDENT ON THE US. VAZQUEZ, NONETHE-
LESS, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE CRISIS WOULD LEAD TO A REVISION OF THE SYSTEM AND NOT ITS TERMINATION. HE CHARACTERIZED THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY ASPECTS OF THE SYSTEM AS "BASIC AND IRREPLACE-
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ABLE".

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4. THE CALL FOR MODERATION IN THE BOGOTA PRESS IS NOT, HOWEVER, UNIVERSAL. EL TIEMPO, NO NOV 18, CARRIED AN EDITORIAL PAGE COLUMN ENTITLED "BURIAL WITHOUT HONORS". THE WRITER STATES THAT, A DECADE AFTER ITS FOUNDING THE ORGANIZATION BEGAN ITS SLOW BUT INEXORABLE DEATH. HE CHARACTERIZES THE OAS AS INCAPABLE OF SELF REFORM AND CALLS FOR ITS ABANDONMENT AND THE FORMATION OF AN ALTERNATE ORGANIZATION WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE US. HE STATES THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS IS AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE PROPOSED SUCH AN ORGANIZATION.

5. COMMENT: THE MORE RESPONSIBLE JOURNALS IN THEIR EDITORIAL COVERAGE ARE NOW LARGELY CONCERNED WITH THE TASK OF SAVING THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. THERE REMAINS, HOWEVER, IN THE WAKE OF THE QUITO MEETING, A STRONG CURRENT OF ANTI-OAS SENTIMENT, USUALLY FOCUSING ON THE US ROLE IN THE ORGANIZATION. THE MAJORITY OF EDITORIAL OPINION, INCLUDING BOTH SUPPORTERS AND DETRACTORS OF THE OAS, ADVOCATES THE END OF CUBA'S DIPLOMATIC QUARANTINE. ACCORDINGLY WE EXPECT THE SMALL ANTI-OAS FACTION TO CONTINUE TO CITE THE QUITO MEETING IN SUPPORT OF THEIR POSITION.
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